

Calendar No. 1040

68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 980

CLAIMS GROWING OUT OF HOUSTON RIOT

FEBRUARY 3, 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MAYFIELD, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7631]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7631) for the relief of Charles T. Clayton and others, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 820, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, and in a letter from the Secretary of War under date of January 28, 1925, which are appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 820, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7631) entitled "For the relief of Charles T. Clayton and others," having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

On page 2, line 6, strike out the name "Mrs. W. P. Herms" and insert in lieu thereof the name "Mrs. J. E. Chamberlin."

On page 3, line 24, strike out the figures "\$250" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$2,500."

Mrs. W. P. Herms has recently remarried and her name is now Mrs. J. E. Chamberlin, which makes the change necessary.

It is believed by your committee that James Edward Lyon, one of the claimants in the bill, is entitled to greater compensation than \$250, which is the amount allowed to him in the bill and which is covered by the above amendment. It appears from the evidence before your committee that the said James Edward Lyon sustained the following injuries: Shot through the arm, once in the leg, and five times in the hip and that four bullets still remain in his hip, which cause him constant pain and suffering; that his general health has been seriously affected by the injuries above mentioned to such a degree as to practically destroy his health; that in addition thereto he has expended in excess of \$3,000 for medical service. The doctor attending Mr. Lyon in 1917 (as shown by Rept. No. 1103, 65th Cong.) did not think the injuries would be permanent, but after more than five years the injuries have proved to be otherwise.

The bill proposes to compensate a number of claimants in the amounts stated in the bill for loss of life, personal injuries, and damages to property inflicted by mutinous negro United States soldiers on the night of August 23, 1917, at Houston, Tex. For a statement of facts see Report 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, hereinafter set forth.

A statement of the facts in connection with such riot, together with copies of the affidavits in printed reports to the Sixty-fifth Congress, third session, numbered as follows: Reports Nos. 1101, 1094, 1092, 1099, 1095, 1102, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1098, 1104, 1096, 1106, 1112, 1097, 1105, 1100, 1103, submitted by the Committee on Claims, which made a favorable report upon this measure to the Sixty-fifth Congress, as shown by the above-mentioned reports, and for convenience a copy of these reports, as relates to each one of the claims set forth in the present bill, is hereto appended and adopted by the committee as a part of this report, excepting that part of said report which relates to amendments to the bill then under consideration by the committee, the proposed amendments mentioned in said reports having been inserted in the bill now under consideration.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1101, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12616) for the relief of Charles T. Clayton, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

Affidavits setting out the manner and extent of injuries to claimant are appended hereto and made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Charles T. Clayton, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Charles T. Clayton, and I was born in Salt Lick, Ky., on November 25, 1888, and I am now 29 years of age. I have lived in the State of Texas since 1906, during practically all of which time I have lived in Harris and Fort Bend Counties. My father, W. M. Clayton, who is a farmer, lives at Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, Tex. I am a lineman and have been employed by the Southwestern Telegraph & Telephone Co., the Houston Lighting & Power Co., and the Western Union Telegraph Co. during the entire time I have been in Texas—that is, since 1906. I am a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and consider myself experienced and competent as a lineman. The standard scale of pay for the kind and character of work that I have performed for the past several years is \$4.20 per day of eight hours. While employed by the above companies I received this pay. I have been married, but was divorced from my wife in July, 1914, in the district court of Fort Bend County, Tex. We had one child, a boy, who is now 5 years of age, and during the entire time from my divorce until August, 1917, when my arm was shot off, I regularly contributed to the support of this child. Up until August of 1917 I was in good health and worked regularly. On the night of August 23, 1917, I was a passenger in a rent car driving toward Camp Logan on Washington Avenue Road between the camp of the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry and Camp Logan, when we were met by a number of negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, who had abandoned their post as guards at the warehouses near Camp Logan and were marching toward Houston, and they fired upon the car in which I was riding and killed Mr. E. M. Jones, the driver of the car, and shot my left arm completely off. I was taken to the base hospital at Camp Logan, and the following day I was taken to St. Joseph's Infirmary in the city of Houston, where my left arm was amputated at the shoulder joint. Since this time I have been unable to follow my occupation, as I am unacquainted with any kind of work except lineman, and I can not perform that, crippled as I am. My education is limited, and I have never done any sort of clerical or other work.

CHARLES T. CLAYTON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 11th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

C. L. LEACH,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared C. C. Green, M. D., who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Charles C. Green. I am a physician and surgeon. I graduated from Tulane University in 1910, since which time I have been actively engaged as a physician and surgeon.

I know Charles T. Clayton, who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. Mr. Clayton was shot in the left arm and was taken to St. Joseph's Infirmary, and I made an examination of him and found that it was necessary to amputate the left arm at the shoulder joint, which I did. Mr. Clayton has had a great deal of trouble with his shoulder and has been under my treatment off and on since the night of the riot.

My fee as physician and surgeon in this case is \$150.

CHARLES C. GREEN, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1094, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12607) for the relief of Freddie Scofield, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The affidavits attached hereto state the manner and extent of the injuries received by claimant and are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Freddie W. Scofield, who being by me duly sworn, on oath says: My name is Fred W. Scofield; was born in Guthrie, Okla., February 8, 1899, and am now 18 years of age. I have lived in the State of Texas since 1900. I was just about a year old when my parents moved to Texas. I have lived in Houston for the past five years. My father's name is Z. E. Scofield, and he is in the real estate business.

I am a schoolboy, and have attended school regularly since I was 7 years old until this year. Have been unable to go to school this year by reason of wound received on the night of August 23. On the night of August 23, 1917, Fred Finely and myself had started to Houston Heights to call on girl friends and just as we got on the other side of the Shepherds Dam Bridge about 50 negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry halted us and ordered us out of the car, and as I jumped out of the car a negro soldier stabbed me in the left thigh with a bayonet, tearing and cutting the muscles, and another negro soldier shot me through the calf of the right leg. Up until August 23, 1917, I was in good health and intended to go back to school in September, and would have been in the third year of high school.

After I was injured on the night of the 23d of August, 1917, I was carried to the Baptist Sanitarium in Houston, Tex., and remained there for five weeks, after which time I was taken to my home and was confined to bed for about two months more. Dr. Sidney M. Lister, 402 Carter Building, Houston, Tex., has been treating me since the time of the injury up until about three weeks ago, since which time I have been treated by Dr. Sidney Isbell, osteopath, 721 Union National Bank Building, Houston, Tex. The wound in the calf of the right leg has entirely healed, but the bayonet wound in the left thigh has never healed and there is a large cavity there where the muscles were torn away and lacerated. The left leg is stiffened, and I can not straighten it; am not able to walk without the aid of crutches.

I am unable to say at this time what the amount of the doctor and hospital bills are.

FREDDIE W. SCOFIELD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 16th day of January, 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public, Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Dr. Sidney M. Lister, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Dr. Sidney M. Lister, and I am a graduate of Barnes Medical College. I have been actively engaged in the practice of physician and surgeon for the past 19 years.

I know Freddie Scofield, who was wounded by negro soldiers on the night of August 23, 1917. He had a gunshot wound in the calf of his right leg, and that wound has entirely healed up. He was also wounded in the left thigh, where a large quantity of muscular tissue was either shot away with a soft-nosed bullet or torn away with a bayonet. The wound was followed by infection. In my opinion, that injury will be permanent. He has been under my treatment and observation since the night of August 23, 1917. There is a large cavity where the muscular tissues were torn away, and at this time he is unable to straighten his leg. In my opinion, the leg will probably straighten in time, but the use of the limb will be permanently impaired to some extent. He will be able to walk on it, but will be unable to run, jump, dance, etc.

My fee as physician and surgeon in this case is \$311, and the bill at the Baptist Sanitarium is \$185.25.

S. M. LISTER, M. D.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of January, 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12613) for the relief of Mrs. Ira D. Raney, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

In line 5, strike out the figures "\$2,500" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$3,500."

In line 9, strike out the figures "\$2,500" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$3,500."

The amount asked in the bill has been increased by the committee because of the unusual circumstances surrounding the case, the destitute condition of the widow, and the fact that she is left with eight children, ranging from 20 years to 14 months of age.

This is one of a number of claims for compensation for loss of life, personal injuries, and damages to property inflicted by mutinous and rioting negro United States soldiers on the night of August 23, 1917, at Houston, Tex.

Briefly, the facts and circumstances in connection with the riot are as follows:

The Twenty-fourth United States Infantry was located near the city of Houston, Tex. On the night of August 23, 1917, a large number of soldiers, acting jointly and in pursuance of a common intent, went to the city and attacked numerous citizens, killing several, wounding others, and destroyed a lot of property. This was done in defiance of orders of the commanding officer, who had issued orders to the effect that the men should disarm and remain in camp.

It is deemed unnecessary to enter into a detailed description of the many wild and vicious acts performed on that occasion, because of the fact that this case was thoroughly aired in the press of the country and it is a matter about which Members of Congress and the people generally are well informed.

The soldiers participating in the riot were tried before general court-martial. Several suffered the death penalty, and many others were sentenced to penal servitude for their violation of law on that occasion.

Several affidavits relative to the manner in which claimant's husband met his death, etc., are appended hereto and made a part of this report.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Pearl Raney, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Pearl Raney, and I am the wife of Ira D. Raney, a police officer, who was shot and killed on the night of the 23d of August, 1917, by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry. Mr. Raney and I were married on the 23d day of July, 1896. My husband was 39 years of age at the time he was killed.

My husband was a mounted officer of the city of Houston, and his hours were from 11 at night until 7 in the morning. On the night of the riot he had reported to the police station for duty. He and other officers went out into the riot district in an automobile. I am not familiar with the details, only from newspaper reports, but I know my husband was in the car with Capt. J. W. Mattes, Battery A, Second Illinois Field Artillery. My husband was shot 25 or 30 times, and was killed instantly. He also was stabbed in the heart with a bayonet.

Mr. Raney had been on the police force about nine years, and was earning \$95 per month. His salary was the only income we had. Myself and children were solely dependent on him for support. I have eight children, as follows: Bryan, a boy aged 20; Thomas, a boy aged 18; Robert, a boy aged 15 years; Ira D., jr., a boy aged 12; Clarence, a boy aged 10; Houston, a boy aged 8; Eva, a girl aged 5; Grace, a girl aged 14 months. My health is very poor, and I am not able to do much.

C. J. Wright & Co. undertaker's bill was \$207.50.

Mrs. I. D. RANEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared C. J. Wright, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is C. J. Wright, and I am an undertaker and embalmer employed by the C. J. Wright Co., undertakers, Houston, Tex.

The body of Ira D. Raney, a police officer of the city of Houston, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Officer Raney was shot through the heart from the front, the bullet coming out the back. Also shot in left buttock with a shotgun and small shot, about No. 6 shot. Bayonet wound through the heart.

C. J. WRIGHT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared B. S. Davison, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is B. S. Davison. At the present time I am manager of service for the chamber of commerce of the city of Houston, Tex. Up to about March 1, 1917, and for several years prior thereto I was the superintendent of police for the city of Houston, and as such superintendent I was personally acquainted with Ira D. Raney, a mounted officer of the department, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917.

Officer Raney worked under me for several years and was an excellent officer. He was in perfect health and drew a salary of \$95 per month.

B. S. DAVISON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 2d day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1099, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12614) for the relief of Mrs. E. A. Thompson, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The attached copy of an affidavit executed by Mrs. Mary A. Thompson, the claimant, is made a part of the report.

Reference is made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session, for a more complete statement of the facts in this case.

My name is Mrs. Mary A. Thompson, I live in Hempstead, Tex., and am 36 years of age, and was the wife of E. A. Thompson, who was shot the night of August 23, 1917, in Houston, Harris County, Tex., about 8.30 p. m. My husband received the wound from which he died as he was passing the camp of the Twenty-fourth Infantry on Washington Avenue in Houston, Tex. He died from the result of this wound about 12 o'clock on the 24th of August, 1917, at St. Joseph Infirmary in Houston, Tex. The bullet that killed my husband entered his right hip and ranged up into his body. My husband, E. A. Thompson, was 35 years of age and was engaged in the undertaking business in Hempstead, Tex. He has been engaged in this business with his father all of his business life. He was also an embalmer; his income from said business was about \$2,000 per year. This was the only income of myself and husband and was my sole support. I have no children, and have no income from any business at this time. I am now living with my father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Pointer, of Hempstead, Tex. Mr. Thompson had \$3,000 insurance money, which I received. I was put to the following expenses incident to the death of my husband, to wit, Dr. R. H. Moers, \$100; Doctor Herndon, \$25; Westheimer Undertaking Co., \$150; St. Joseph Infirmary, \$25; casket at Hempstead, \$275.

Mrs. MARY A. THOMPSON.

Sworn to before me this the 25th day of February, 1918.

C. L. LEACH,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Waller:

Before me, Robert McDade, clerk of the county court, in and for Waller County, Tex., on this day personally appeared R. E. Tompkins, to me well known, who, being by me first duly sworn, on his oath deposes and states as follows:

"My name is R. E. Tompkins; I am 52 years of age, and reside in Hempstead, in Waller County, Tex. I am a lawyer by profession, and am at present district attorney for the eightieth judicial district court.

"I am well acquainted with T. F. Thompson and his wife, who reside in Hempstead, and who are the father and mother, respectively, of E. A. Thompson, formerly a citizen of Hempstead, who was killed by soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, in a riot in the city of Houston about the year 1917. I have known Mr. and Mrs. Thompson for more than 40 years, and am well acquainted with their circumstances.

"I know practically of my own knowledge that at the time of his death the said E. A. Thompson was the proprietor of an undertaking establishment situated in Hempstead, which, though apparently in his own name, was established and maintained by funds supplied by T. F. Thompson, father of E. A. Thompson, and represented practically the entire life earnings of the said T. F. Thompson.

"I know further that after the death of the said E. A. Thompson much of the funds of this business was consumed in the payment of the obligations of the business, and that what remained was retained by the widow of the said E. A. Thompson.

"That by and through the death of the said E. A. Thompson and consequent collapse of the business aforesaid, the said father, T. F. Thompson, suffered a loss of practically all the fruits of his life work. I know further that the said T. F. Thompson has now reached a great age, being now in his eighty-second or eighty-third year; that his wife is now above the age of 75 years; that they are entirely incapacitated for work, and can not now engage in any character of labor for their support and maintenance. I know further that they are now practically

without means or income, and that this condition is the direct and proximate result of the death of their son E. A. Thompson at the hands of soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry in the riot aforesaid."

R. E. TOMPKINS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22d day of April, 1924.

[SEAL.]

ROBT. MCDADE,
Clerk County Court, Waller County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1095, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12608) for the relief of Mrs. A. R. Carstens, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass:

Appended hereto and forming a part of this report are two affidavits bearing on the case.

For a more complete statement of the case reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Viola H. Carstens, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath, says:

My name is Mrs. Viola H. Carstens, and I was the wife of A. R. Carstens, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. I am 30 years of age and an invalid.

I do not know anything about the details of my husband's death, only what I read in the papers.

My husband was 42 years of age and in good health. He was a painter by trade and earned \$4.80 per day. He was the sole support of myself and four children, as follows: Richard, a boy aged 11; Vernon, a boy aged 9; Fred, a boy aged 3, and Alex, a boy aged 6. My health is very bad, and I am unable to support myself and my four children.

The undertaker's bill was \$257.

Mrs. VIOLA H. CARSTENS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 5th day of February, 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Sid. Westheimer, who being by me duly sworn, on oath, says:

My name is Sid. Westheimer, and I am president of the Sid. Westheimer Co., undertakers and embalmers, corner Caroline and Prairie Avenue, Houston, Tex.

The body of A. R. Carstens, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Mr. Carstens was bayoneted through the lower abdominal cavity, completely destroying the walls of the cavity, laying bare the intestines. He also had a knife or bayonet thrust through the left thigh.

SID. WESTHEIMER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 5th day of February, 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1102, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12617), for the relief of Mrs. E. M. Jones, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The affidavits appended hereto contain all the facts in connection with this case, and are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris*, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Jeanette Jones, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Mrs. Jeanette Jones, and I am the widow of E. M. Jones, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. I live at 1110 Cordell Street, city of Houston, Tex.

My husband was 53 years of age at the time of his death and was in perfect health. His average earnings were about \$25 a week, and he was the sole support of myself and three minor children, Reta, a girl aged 19; Thelma, a girl aged 15 years; and Milton, a boy aged 13 years. My husband did not carry any life insurance at all. I own my home, but still owe about \$700 on it.

MRS. JEANETTE JONES.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 5th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris*, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Leo D. Jones, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Leo D. Jones. I am 25 years old and the son of E. M. Jones who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. I was not present at the time he was killed, but went out and made an investigation the next day. My father was killed when the guards at the warehouses left their posts and started toward the negro soldier camp. He was shot several times, but I do not know the exact location of the wounds. He lived about 25 minutes after he was shot.

My father was 53 years of age at the time he was killed, and in perfect health. He had a car in the jitney business and happened to be running the car himself the night he was shot. His average earnings were about \$25 a week, and that was all the income he had, and my mother and the following children were solely dependent on him for support: Reta, a girl 19 years old; Thelma, a girl aged 15 years; and Milton, a boy aged 13 years. They have no other means of support except what my father made. My mother is 50 years of age.

The undertaker's bill was \$113 and \$26 charges for shipping the remains to Willis, Tex.

LEO D. JONES.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this, the 19th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris*, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Sid Westheimer, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath, says:

My name is Sid Westheimer, and I am president of the Sid Westheimer Co., undertakers and embalmers, corner Caroline and Prairie Avenue, Houston, Tex.

The body of E. M. Jones, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Mr. Jones was shot three times in right side and through the left lung, and one shot through the abdominal cavity; also had right arm shattered by bullet; shots completely riddled thoracic cavity.

SID WESTHEIMER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1107, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12623) for the relief of Mrs. D. R. Patton, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The facts in this case are fully set out in the attached affidavits, which are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. D. R. Patton, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Mrs. D. R. Patton. I was born on the 20th day of August, 1899, in Harris County, Tex., and have lived here all my life. My husband's name was D. R. Patton. He was a police officer of the city of Houston for about five years, and was such police officer on the night of August 23, 1917, when he was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry. Mr. Patton was 28 years of age at the time of his death.

At the time of his death my husband's hours were from 3 in the afternoon until 11 at night. I do not know anything of the details of his death, except what I have been told and the newspaper reports. He was shot 20 times, approximately, and was taken to the Baptist Sanitarium shortly after being shot, and languished there until September 8, 1917, when he died from the wounds inflicted by the negro mutineers.

His salary as police officer was \$95 per month and he always worked regularly, was sober, industrious, and ambitious, and I think would have been promoted to a better position. I was solely dependent upon him for support, as I never worked at any employment away from home until after his death. My father is dead and my mother and other relatives are in very moderate circumstances. Since my husband's death, I have been forced to seek employment as a saleslady in a dry-goods store, but as I never had any prior experience or training, it has been impossible for me to earn much salary. I never received any training or education to fit me for any other kind of employment.

Dr. James Hill attended my husband during his last illness, and other physicians also attended him along with Doctor Hill. Their bills and the bill of the Baptist Sanitarium aggregate about \$600, which I have been unable to pay. His funeral bill amounted to \$325.

MRS. D. R. PATTON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Sid. Westheimer, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Sid. Westheimer, and I am president of the Sid. Westheimer Co., undertakers and embalmers, corner Caroline and Prairie Avenues, Houston, Tex.

The body of D. R. Patton, a police officer of the city of Houston, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Mr. Patton was shot with a rifle in right leg and in the left arm.

SID. WESTHEIMER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared B. S. Davison, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is B. S. Davison. At the present time I am manager of service for the chamber of commerce of the city of Houston, Tex. Up to about March 1, 1917, and for several years prior thereto, I was the superintendent of police for the city of Houston, and as such superintendent I was personally acquainted with D. R. Patton, a mounted officer of the department, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917.

Officer Patton worked under me for several years, and was an excellent officer. He was in perfect health and drew a salary of \$95 per month.

B. S. DAVISON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 2d day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Dr. James A. Hill, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Dr. James A. Hill. I am a physician and surgeon, graduate of Tulane University, at New Orleans. Since 1896 I have been actively engaged as a physician and surgeon.

I knew D. R. Patton, a mounted officer of the police department of the city of Houston, who was shot by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. Officer Patton was taken to the Baptist Sanitarium. He was shot in the right leg and left arm, and developed tetanus, from which he died on September 8, 1917.

My fee in this case is \$55, which has never been paid.

JAMES A. HILL, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 13th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1108, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12624) for the relief of Mrs. S. Satton, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The affidavits appended hereto contain the facts in the case, and are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Eva Satton, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Mrs. Eva Satton. I was born near McKinney, Tex., December 8, 1886. We moved to Houston, Tex., on June 5, 1917. My husband's name was S. Satton. He and I were married April 27, 1914.

My husband, S. Satton, was killed by the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. My husband was in the same automobile with Capt. J. W. Mattes, Battery A, Second Illinois Field Artillery, and others. I do not know any of the details of the killing, except the newspaper reports. The undertaker says he removed a rifle bullet from each thigh and a whole Army rifle shell from one of his limbs, and that Mr. Satton had a bayonet wound clear through his body, passing through the heart, and also a bayonet wound through the neck.

My husband was my sole support before his death. My health was such that I was unable to keep house and we boarded. My husband was in perfect health and worked regularly. He was a barber by trade and belonged to Barbers' Local No. 74, Houston, Tex. My husband worked at Pizzo Bros' barber shop, 508 Main Street, Houston, and his average earnings per week was about \$25. Since his death I have been forced to go to work to support myself. My health is gradually improving, but am still under treatment of a doctor. I have a baby girl, Ethel Clairine, who will be two years old in March.

Wright Undertaking Co.'s bill was \$174.50. However, the barbers' union has paid \$100 of this.

Mrs. EVA SATTON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared C. J. Wright, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is C. J. Wright, and I am an undertaker and embalmer employed by the C. J. Wright Co., undertakers, Houston, Tex.

The body of S. Satton, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Mr. Satton was shot in the front of both thighs with No. 6 shot and slugs, and had a bayonet wound through the heart.

C. J. WRIGHT.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1109, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12625) for the relief of Mrs. Horace Moody, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass:

The facts in this case are fully set out in the attached affidavits, which are made a part of this report.

House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session, contains a full statement of the case, and reference to this report is here made.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Lida West, wife of Howard R. West, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Lida West. I am a daughter of Mrs. Horace Moody, and a step-daughter of Horace Moody, a policeman of the city of Houston, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the 23d day of August, 1917. I am not familiar with the details of the shooting, only by newspaper reports, and what has been told me. My mother telephoned me about 1 o'clock, telling me that Mr. Moody had been shot by the soldiers, and I went immediately to the Baptist Sanitarium, and arrived there about 2 o'clock, and she had arrived there about 15 minutes earlier. Dr. Sidney M. Lister, 402 Carter Building, had operated on Mr. Moody at the time we arrived. Mr. Moody died about 3.30 o'clock on the same night he was shot.

My mother and Mr. Moody were married about 22 years ago; there was no children by that marriage. My mother has been in very bad health for the past five years. She is not an invalid, but has been under the observation of a doctor for practically all of that time. My mother is 52 years of age, and is unable to provide for herself in any way. She has never done any kind of work, and don't know how to do anything. She can not even do washing—far too weak for anything of that kind. She was absolutely dependent on Mr. Moody for support. My mother receives \$15 per month rent for her house, but she owes \$795 on the place, and it is in a bad state of repair, and will need quite a bit of

money spent on it to keep it rented. She has been trying to live on the \$15 per month rental, and has been able to do so with what help I could give her, and help from her sister. However, her sister's and my means are limited.

Mr. Moody had been in the police department for 10 years, and at the time he was killed he was a day mounted officer. He was not on duty at the time of the riot, but was called from the police station over the telephone at his home, and went immediately to the police station, and was sent from there in an automobile out into the riot district with other officers, and was killed. Mr. Moody's salary was \$95 per month. He was in perfect health, and worked regularly.

Mrs. LIDA WEST.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public, Harris County, Tex.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared J. L. McCarty, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is J. L. McCarty, and I am a member of the firm of Earthman & McCarty, undertakers and embalmers, Houston, Tex.

The body of Horace Moody, a police officer of the city of Houston, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by us and prepared for burial. Mr. Moody had his left leg shot off below the knee.

J. L. McCARTY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared B. S. Davison, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is B. S. Davison. At the present time I am manager of service for the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Houston, Tex. Up to about March 1, 1917, and for several years prior thereto, I was the superintendent of police for the city of Houston, and as such superintendent I was personally acquainted with Horace Moody, a mounted officer of the department, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917.

Officer Moody worked under me for several years, and was an excellent officer. He was in perfect health and drew a salary of \$95 per month.

B. S. DAVISON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 2d day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Dr. Sidney M. Lister, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Dr. Sidney M. Lister, and I am a graduate of Barnes Medical College. I have been actively engaged in the practice of physician and surgeon for the past 19 years.

I knew Horace Moody, a police officer of the city of Houston, who was killed on the night of August 23, 1917, by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry. Mr. Moody was wounded in the left leg below the knee, and it was necessary to amputate the leg below the knee, which I did. Mr. Moody died the same night.

S. M. LISTER, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1110, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12606) for the relief of William J. Drucks, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

Appended hereto, and forming a part of this report, are two affidavits bearing on the case.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared William J. Drucks, who, being by me duly sworn on oath, says:

My name is William J. Drucks. I was born in Laredo, Tex., the 16th day of September, A. D. 1891. I am 26 years of age. I have lived in the State of Texas all my life. My mother is Mrs. Mary E. Winkler.

Up to the night of the 23d of August, 1917, I was employed by Magnolia Brewery, working in the bottling department. I have worked at that trade for about four years, and the regular scale of wages in that trade is \$20 a week, but I usually made from \$25 to \$30 a week, working overtime. Since the 23d of August, 1917, I have not been able to work at my trad at all, by reason of being shot by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry, when they rioted in Houston on the night of the 23d of August, 1917. I live about three blocks, with my mother and sister, from the place where the negro soldiers were camped. I saw the negro soldiers passing our house and went out on the porch to watch them, not knowing there was any riot, and asked my sister to turn on the light so I could see how many more were coming, and she did so, and I looked up the street in an easterly direction, and at that time I heard some one across the street using profane language, and I looked in that direction and saw two or three negro soldiers kneeling down aiming their guns to shoot, and I told my sister to cut off the light, and just as I said it I was shot and my right arm between the wrist and the elbow was practically shot off, the bullet shattering the bones and leaving the hand hanging on by a little flesh. I was taken to St. Joseph's Infirmary, and Dr. R. H. Moers amputated the arm about half way between the wrist and the elbow. Dr. Moer's bill was \$250, and my hospital bill was \$43.45. I have ordered an artificial limb, and the cost of that is \$85.

Up to the time I was injured I worked regularly, and earned on an average of \$25 a week, of which sum I contributed \$15 a week to the support of my mother and sister.

It was necessary that I contribute at least that much for their support. My half-brother Fred Winkler, who also contributed to their support was killed on the night of the riot by the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry.

My education is very slight and I am not capable of making a living for myself and mother and sister in the condition I am in now, because, as I have lost my right arm I will never be able to work at my trade again, and have no other trade. I have never done any clerical work. I have not worked since the riot. Am just beginning to learn to write with my left hand.

WM. J. DRUCKS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared R. H. Moers, M. D., who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Dr. R. H. Moers. I graduated from Tulane University in 1910, and served as an interne in the Charity Hospital in New Orleans for two years, since which time I have been actively engaged as a physician and surgeon.

I know Mr. William J. Drucks, who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry, on the night of August 23, 1917. I

attended Mr. Drucks at St. Joseph's Infirmary and found that his right arm had been practically shot off, and I amputated it just below the elbow joint.

My fee in this case is \$250.

R. H. MOERS, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1111, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12612) for the relief of Mrs. E. J. Meinecke, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

Wherever the name "Meineke" appears in the bill insert the letter "e" between the letters "e" and "k" so the name will be spelled "Meinecke."

Affidavits bearing on the case are appended hereto and made a part of this report.

For a complete statement of the case reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Camilla Meinecke, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath, says:

My name is Camilla Meinecke, and I was the wife of E. G. Meinecke, a police officer of the city of Houston, who was killed on the night of August 23, 1917, by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry. I was born in Houston, Tex., on April 1, 1901, and I married Mr. E. G. Meinecke on November 1, 1916. My husband was 23 years of age at the time he was killed.

My husband started to the police station on the night of the riot at 9.55 to go to work. His hours were from 11 at night until 7 in the morning. When he was catching the car to go to work my sister's husband met him and told him about the riot, and he came on to the police station and was one of the party that was in the car with Capt. J. W. Mattes, Battery A, Second Illinois Field Artillery. I do not know anything of the details of the killing; only I know from newspaper reports that my husband and Capt. Mattes were both killed on San Felipe Street by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry. I do not know how many times he was shot, because I was not permitted to go near him. He was killed instantly.

I do not know how much per month my husband made, but think it was about \$65 or \$70 per month. He was in perfect health and worked regularly. His salary as a policeman was the only income we had. I am living with my father and mother at this time, but they have a large family and hardly able to stand the burden. Mr. Meinecke was the only support I had in his lifetime. The bill of the undertaker, Wall & Stabe, was \$176.

I have never done any kind of work except during the past Christmas holidays I attempted to work at Kress's and was unable to stand the work. My health has been bad since the death of my husband, and have been under the care of a physician from time to time since then.

Mrs. CAMILLA MEINECKE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Frank H. Snell, who being by me duly sworn on oath says:

My name is Frank H. Snell, and I am an undertaker and embalmer, employed by the Wall & Stabe Co., undertakers and embalmers, Houston, Tex.

The body of E. G. Meinecke, a police officer of the city of Houston, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Officer Meinecke

had a rifle shot in left shoulder, passed through body and came out at the right shoulder blade. Rifle shot in right thigh, passed through both legs. Rifle shot in right leg above the knee, passed from back to front. Numerous small holes in the back, possibly 10 or 12.

FRANK H. SNELL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared B. S. Davison, who being by me duly sworn on oath says:

My name is B. S. Davison. At the present time I am manager of service for the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Houston, Tex. Up to about March 1, 1917, and for several years prior thereto, I was the superintendent of police for the city of Houston, and as such superintendent I was personally acquainted with E. G. Meinecke, an officer of the department, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917.

Officer Meinecke worked under me for some time, and was an excellent officer. He was in perfect health, and drew a salary of \$80 per month.

B. S. DAVISON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 2d day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1098, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12611) for the relief of Mrs. C. W. Wright, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

In line 5 strike out the figures "\$2,500" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$1,500."

In line 9 strike out the figures "\$2,500" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$1,500."

The facts in this case are set out in the attached affidavits, which are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Hazel Wright, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Hazel Wright. I was born in Fairbury, Nebr., December 29, 1895. I was 22 years of age in December. I came to Texas about five years ago and have lived in Houston ever since. My father is dead and my mother lives in Moberly, Mo. I have no relatives in Texas at all. I was married to C. W. Wright January 16, 1915.

My husband, C. W. Wright, was killed by the rioting negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. Our home is at 4701 Wood Street, which is right in the district where the riot occurred. We heard the shooting of the soldiers and my husband thought there was a fire, and he left the house in his shirt sleeves and without a collar to go and see where the fire was, and he got about two and a half blocks from home when he was shot. When the negroes surrounded him he raised his arms and was shot in both arms just above the elbow, and was shot in the right side, the bullet penetrating the liver. He was taken to St. Joseph's Infirmary and was operated upon and died about 1 o'clock the same night. Dr. R. F. Herndon, 735 Kress Building, Houston, Tex., performed the operation. His bill was \$45 and the hospital bill was \$5; lot in Glenwood Cemetery, \$165; Houston Undertaking Co., \$372.50.

My husband was my sole support, and I have been forced to work to earn my living since he was killed. My mother is a widow and in bad health, and I also have to help support her. I am working now for the Boston Shoe Store, 317 Main Street, Houston, Tex. In my spare time I am taking a course in book-keeping.

Mrs. HAZEL WRIGHT.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 18th day of January, A. D. 1918

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Leo H. Weadock, manager of the Houston Undertaking Co., who, being duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Leo H. Weadock, and I am the manager of the Houston Undertaking Co., Houston, Tex.

The body of C. W. Wright, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Mr. Wright was shot in right arm above and near the joint, ranged into right side, lacerated the liver, and passed on into the abdominal cavity.

LEO H. WEADOCK.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared R. F. Herndon, M. D., who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Dr. R. F. Herndon, and I am a graduate of the medical department of the University of Texas. I graduated in 1912, since which time I have been actively practicing as a physician and surgeon.

I knew C. W. Wright, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. I got to the infirmary about 9.30 p. m. and had been there about half an hour before Mr. Wright's people knew I was there, and then they called me to attend Mr. Wright. Dr. C. C. Green had attended him before I got there. Mr. Wright had been shot through the liver, and as the result of that he died the same night about 12 or 1 o'clock.

My fee in this case is \$35.

R. F. HERNDON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1104, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12620) for the relief of G. W. Butcher, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

Appended hereto and forming a part of this report are two affidavits bearing on the case.

For a more complete statement of the case reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss.*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared G. W. Butcher, who being duly sworn on oath, says:

My name is G. W. Butcher, and I live on Inker Street, Cottage Grove, Houston, Tex. I am 43 years of age, and have lived in Houston for 43 years. I am a painter for the Southern Pacific Railroad Co., and earn on an average about \$90 per month. I consider that I am an experienced and competent painter.

On the night of August 23, 1917, I left home about 8.30 p. m. and started over in Brunner on horseback, and when I got about the northeast corner of the negro soldiers' camp, Mr. Carstens, who was killed by the negro soldiers, was laying in the street and my horse shied at him and I stopped, and the minute I stopped the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry shot me and killed my horse. At that time I was shot in the back and the bullet came out my chest about 2 inches above the nipple. I then went on over in Brunner and four parties started to put me in an automobile, and a bunch of negro soldiers opened fire on us and I was again wounded, this time the bullet entering in the back just above the hip, and lodged under my ribs. The bullet is still in me. I was taken to St. Joseph's Infirmary that night, where my wounds were dressed, and the next morning I was taken to the Southern Pacific Hospital. Dr. C. C. Green attended me. I stayed in the Southern Pacific Hospital about two months, during which time Doctor Green performed an operation on me. By reason of being shot by the negro soldiers I was unable to work from the 23d of August until about the 30th of December, and am unable at this time to work as I did before. My earning capacity has been lessened about \$20 per month on account of my injuries.

I have a wife and nine children, seven of whom are solely dependent on me for support. They have no means of support other than what I make at my occupation of painter.

The horse I was riding the night of the riot and which was killed by the soldiers was valued at \$100.

G. W. BUTCHER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 9th day of February, 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Charles C. Green, M. D., who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Dr. Charles C. Green. I am a physician and surgeon. I graduated from Tulane University in 1910, since which time I have been actively engaged as a physician and surgeon.

I know Mr. G. W. Butcher, who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. Mr. Butcher was shot in the back and the bullet came out his chest, about 2 inches above the nipple; also shot in the back just above the hip, and the bullet lodged under his ribs, and is still there. Mr. Butcher was in the Southern Pacific Hospital about two months. Mr. Butcher developed pus in the chest cavity, and I performed an operation on him for that.

CHARLES C. GREEN, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 13th day of February, 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1086, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12609) for the relief of T. Binford, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

In line 5, strike out the figures "\$250" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$1,000."

In line 9, strike out the figures "\$250" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$1,000."

Affidavits setting out the manner and extent of injuries to claimant are appended hereto, and made a part of this report.

Reference is made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session, for a more complete statement of the case.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared T. A. Binford, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is T. A. Binford, and I was born near Waller, Harris County, Tex., on April 5, 1881, and have lived in Harris County all my life. I am now 36 years of age. My father's name is J. A. Binford, and he lives near Waller, Harris County, Tex.

I am a city detective for the city of Houston, and have been so employed about four years and a half, but have been in the police department of said city for about 10 years. Since I have been a city detective my salary has been \$100 a month.

On the night of the 23d of August, 1917, I rang in to the police station and was told that the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry were rioting, and I went immediately to the station. Then Tom Goodson, Arch Spradley, L. G. Bryson, Norfleet Hill, and myself, all city detectives, got in a car and went out Washington to Brunner Avenue, and there we learned about the negro soldiers rioting, and we started to get out of the car and they opened fire on us. They fired some hundred and fifty or two hundred shots at us. I was the only one in my party that was injured. I was shot once through the right knee, a rifle bullet going clear through the knee. I was taken to Norsworthy's Hospital, and stayed there for 10 days. Dr. John T. Moore, 431 Kress Building, Houston, treated me. I was laid off from my work from the night of the riot until November 20. I have never been able to walk without the aid of a cane or crutches since the night of the riot.

I have a wife and four children that are solely dependent on me for support. My wife's name is Mrs. Maud Binford, and my children are as follows: Ellis, aged 14 years; Beryl, aged 12; Tom, aged 9; and Doris, aged 6. Their only means of support comes from my salary.

Doctor Moore's bill for his services was \$100; hospital bill, Norsworthy's Sanitarium, \$47.25.

T. A. BINFORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.-

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared John T. Moore, M. D., who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Dr. John T. Moore, and I am a graduate of the medical department of the University of Texas. I graduated from there in 1896, since which time I have been actively engaged as a physician and surgeon.

I know T. Binford, city detective, who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. Mr. Binford had a rifle shot through the right knee. I have treated Mr. Binford from the time he was wounded, and he is still under my observation. It is my opinion that Mr. Binford's wound, or injury, is not permanent. He has some stiffness in the knee at this time and walks with a cane.

My fee as physician and surgeon in this case is \$100.

JOHN T. MOORE, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1106, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12622) for the relief of Mary E. Winkler, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The facts in the case are fully stated in the attached affidavits, which are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mrs. Mary E. Winkler, who, being duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Mary E. Winkler, and am 54 years of age, and a widow with three children now living, to wit, Mary Winkler, a girl aged 18 years; William J. Drucks, a boy aged 26 years; Charlie Albert Drucks, a boy aged 25 years. Frederick E. J. Winkler, a boy aged 19 years, was my youngest son and was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, when they broke from camp and rioted in the city of Houston and county of Harris. Frederick E. J. Winkler was up to the time of his death in good health and employed at the Burge Manufacturing Co. in the city of Houston and had been so employed for the past five years, during the last three of which his average salary was \$2.25 per day; that he contributed at least \$7.50 per week to my support and the support of his sister. On the night of August 23, 1917, Frederick was at home at 4910 Lillian Street, which is about three blocks from where the negroes were camped. At about 8 o'clock we heard shooting coming from the direction of the camp, and in a few minutes it seemed that the firing was coming near our house, and one of my children looked out and saw soldiers passing the house in marching order. Willie went out on the gallery first to see what was going on, and Frederick went out right behind him, and my daughter Mary was standing in the door. One of the boys, I think Willie, said, "Turn on the light," and Mary did so. Just as the light was turned on there was a volley of shots fired into the house from the street by the soldiers. There were 14 shots hit the house. My son Frederick was killed by one of the shots, which went through the upper part of his body, and my son Willie J. Drucks, who was there with Frederick, was shot in the right arm, which necessitated amputation by Dr. R. H. Moers, 413 Kress Building. William J. Drucks is 26 years of age and was at the time he was shot by the negro soldiers employed at Magnolia Brewery as a bottler. He had been employed at the brewery for the past four years and received a salary of \$20 per week, from which he contributed about \$15 per week to my support and that of his sister. These two boys were my main support. My support now comes from Charlie Drucks, who receives \$20 per week. William J. Drucks is unable to follow his trade and can do no manual labor. His education is very slight, he having to assume the support of myself and his younger brothers and sister at a very early age. I am not in good health; have not had good health for the past 17 years. I am unable to do any kind of work except some little work around the house.

MARY E. WINKLER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 17th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Mary Winkler, who, being duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Mary Winkler, and I am 18 years of age, and live with my mother and brothers at 4910 Lillian Street, which is about three blocks from where the negro soldiers were camped on August 23, 1917. On the night of August 23, 1917, I was at home with my mother and brothers and about 8 o'clock we heard some shots from the direction of the negro camp, and then in a few minutes there were other shots which seemed to be near our house. One of us looked out and could see some soldiers passing in marching order. They were going in the

direction of Brunner Avenue. My brother, William J. Drucks went out on the gallery to see what was going on and my other brother, Fred Winkler, went out behind him, and I went to the door. Before all of the soldiers had passed William Drucks said, "Turn on the light," and I did, and just at that time some one of the soldiers said, "There they are," and a volley of shots was fired into the house. I was not struck, but my brother Fred Winkler, was killed and my other brother, William Drucks, had his right hand shot off. The next morning we counted the number of shots in the house and there were 14. I do not work and have never worked. My brothers all worked and helped take care of mother and myself, and I had to stay home and look after mother who is not in good health. I had to do the housework, etc.

MARY WINKLER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Sid Westheimer, who being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is Sid Westheimer, and I am president of the Sid Westheimer Co., undertakers and embalmers, corner Caroline and Prairie Avenue, Houston, Tex.

The body of Fred E. J. Winkler, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917, was handled by me and prepared for burial. Mr. Winkler was shot twice through the right breast, the bullets completely passing through the body and leaving large exit holes on left side of body just above the left hip.

SID WESTHEIMER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,
County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared R. A. Burge, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is R. A. Burge, and I am president of the Burge Manufacturing Co., Houston, Tex.

I was acquainted with Frederick, E. J. Winkler, who was killed by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry in their mutiny and riot on the night of August 23, 1917.

Frederick, E. J. Winkler was employed by the Burge Manufacturing Co., of which I am president, for about five years, during the last three of which his average salary was \$2.25 per day. His services with us were absolutely satisfactory, and as he was in perfect health he would have continued to earn at least \$2.25 per day, and in all probability would have earned more as he grew older and more experienced.

R. A. BURGE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 2d day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1112, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12618) for the relief of Mrs. F. H. Sherbert, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

Claimant's son, Earl Finlay, was shot through the breast and killed by rioting negro United States soldiers at Houston, Tex., on the night of August 23, 1917. Finlay was 17 years of age. No one was dependent upon him for support. The amount asked by claimant is simply to cover undertaker's bill.

For a complete statement of the case reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1097, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12610) for the relief of W. H. Burkett, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The affidavits attached hereto state the manner and extent of the injuries received by claimant, and are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case reference is made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared W. H. Burkett, who being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is W. H. Burkett, and I was born in Louisiana on the 26th day of November, 1894, and my parents moved to Montgomery County, Tex., about a year later. I came to Houston about the latter part of June, 1917, and went to work as a motorman for the Houston Electric Co., and worked for them as such until the night of August 23, 1917, when I was shot by the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry. My salary as motorman for the Houston Electric Co. was about \$75 a month. I consider that I was an experienced and competent motorman.

On the night of August 23, 1917, I was motorman on a street car on the San Felipe Line. As the car got to the corner of San Felipe and Wilson I stopped to let a passenger off, and about 30 or 35 negro soldiers came up from the left and hollered "halt" and began shooting, and I looked down and saw blood on my clothes and found that I had been shot in the left side. When the shooting started I dropped to the floor of the car, and when I found I was shot I reached up and started the car, and a passenger, Julius Sigel, acted as motorman from there on to town. I was then taken to St. Joseph's Infirmary and stayed there for about three weeks, and was treated by Dr. R. H. Moers. I do not know the amount of his bill, nor the bill of the hospital.

Before I was shot by the negro soldiers I was in good health and worked regularly. Since I was shot I have not been able to work as a motorman at all. When the weather is clear and warm I can and do work as a car checker for the Houston Electric Co. The bullet is still in my abdomen, and the wound bothers me a good deal, and that is especially true when the weather is cold or damp.

I have a wife and two children that are wholly dependent on me for support. The salary I earn is the only income we have. My wife's name is Velma Burkett, and the children are Opel, a girl 2 years of age, and Eunice, a girl aged about 4 months.

My education is limited, and I have to depend on my labor for support, having never done any kind of clerical work.

W. H. BURKETT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared J. W. Landrigan, who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is J. W. Landrigan, and I am the chief inspector for the Houston Electric Co., and have held that position for the past nine years.

I know W. H. Burkett, who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. Mr. Burkett was a motorman for the Houston Electric Co. at the time he was injured, and was on duty at the time. He was a good motorman and his average earnings as such were about \$75 per month, but if he had not been injured he would be earning at this time between \$85 and \$90 a month. Since he was injured he has been unable to work as motorman and the company has been using him as a checker, but even in that kind of work he is unable to work steady. On a clear day he does very well, but when the weather is disagreeable he is unable to

work. Mr. Burkett has a wife and two children that are solely dependent on him for support.

J. W. LANDRIGAN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS,

County of Harris, ss:

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared R. H. Moers, M. D., who being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

My name is R. H. Moers. I graduated from Tulane University in 1910, and served as an interne in the Charity Hospital in New Orleans for two years, since which time I have been actively engaged as a physician and surgeon.

I know Mr. W. H. Burkett, the street-car motorman who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. I treated Mr. Burkett at St. Joseph's Infirmary, and performed an operation on him and found it was necessary to remove his spleen, which I did. The character of the operation upon him leaves a weak point in the abdominal wall, which might at any time result in a hernia in the event he should do very hard work.

My fee in this case is \$250.

R. H. MOERS, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1105, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12621) for the relief of W. A. Wise, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

In line 5, strike out the figures "\$100" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$250."

In line 9, strike out the figures "\$100" and insert in lieu thereof the figures "\$250."

The evidence shows that claimant was shot three times in the left arm, twice in the back, once on the ear, and twice in the knee, none of which were serious; that he was out of work by reason of the injuries for two weeks; that he is 53 years of age, and that at the time of the injuries he was earning \$55 per week at the carpenter trade. His doctor's bill amounted to \$50.

For a more complete statement of the case reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1100, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12615) for the relief of Miss Almer Reichart, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

Affidavits of claimant and Dr. Hiram R. Gilliam, the attending physician, are appended hereto and made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Alma Reichert, who being by me duly sworn on oath says:

My name is Alma Reichert. I was born at Hillendahl, Harris County, Texas, on the 3d day of July, A. D. 1902. I am fifteen years of age. I have lived in

Houston since I was about nine years of age. My father is a merchant at 5001 Washington Avenue, city of Houston.

I have been attending school regularly since I was about seven years of age, but have not gone to school since August.

On the night of August 23d, 1917, I was at home at 5001 Washington Avenue, and my father was in the saloon part of the building, and I had started in to him when I was shot in the abdomen by negro soldiers of the 24th Infantry. About an hour after I was shot I was carried to the Baptist Sanitarium and remained there for one day and then was carried home. I was confined to bed for about ten days, but have not yet entirely recovered from the effects of the bullet wound. At times the wound is still painful. Dr. F. Scott Glover, 325 Binz Building, was called in about forty-five minutes after I was shot and took me to the hospital, and Dr. Hiram R. Gilliam, 3617 Washington Avenue, Houston, performed an operation on me that same night. On the 8th of October, 1917, it became necessary to perform another operation on me, and Dr. Gilliam did that also. Dr. Gilliam's bill for services rendered in connection with this wound is \$75 and Dr. Glover's bill is \$65. Hospital bill is \$12.25.

I have not been able to attend school since I was wounded by the negro soldiers, but intend to return to school as soon as I am able.

ALMA REICHERT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Texas.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Hiram R. Gilliam, M. D., who, being by me duly sworn, on oath says:

I know Alma Reichert, who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry on the night of August 23, 1917. I treated her during the time she was injured. She was shot with a rifle bullet, it entering just above the pubic bone and ranging downward and backward, and I removed it from the gluteal muscles.

I have been actively engaged as a physician and surgeon for 10 years, and am a graduate of the University of Louisville.

I removed the bullet from the body, and am of the opinion that no permanent injury will follow.

HIRAM R. GILLIAM, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUCHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

[House of Representatives, Report No. 1103, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12619) for the relief of James Edward Lyon, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The affidavits attached hereto state the case, and are made a part of this report.

For a more complete statement of the case, reference is here made to House Report No. 1092, Sixty-fifth Congress, third session.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared James E. Lyon, who being by me duly sworn on oath says:

My name is James E. Lyon, and I was born in Memphis, Tenn., March 31, 1899, and I am now 18 years of age, will be 19 on the 31st of March. I came to Texas in 1913 but went back to Memphis and stayed until September, 1916, when I once more came back to Texas. I began work for the Republic Supply Co. on September 15, 1917, and worked for them continuously until the present time. Prior to August 23, 1917, I worked for the Cotton Belt Railroad in the commercial agent's office.

On the night of the 23d of August, 1917, Asa Bland and myself were riding around up town and a policeman stopped us and asked me to take him to the

police station, and I did, and when we got to the police station officers Rainey and Richardson got in the car with me and Bland, and Eli Smith also got in the car with us, and we started toward the San Felipe district where the negro rioters of the Twenty-fourth Infantry were. When we reached San Felipe and Helner about 60 or 70 negro soldiers stopped us and ordered us out of the car, and we got out, and I believe Officer Rainey started to run toward the front of the car and they killed him, and Eli Smith started toward the back of the car and they shot and killed him. Some of them hit Officer Richardson over the head with the butt of a rifle and knocked him unconscious, and they also knocked Bland unconscious, but I don't know what they hit him with, either a pistol or rifle. When they hit Bland I turned and ran. Before I started to run I got shot in the arm, and that wound is now entirely healed; however, it still troubles me. When I ran they turned and shot at me, and hit me three times with rifle bullets and four buckshot. The buckshot are still in me. All of the wounds are in the hips. I am entirely recovered now, with the exception that with changes of the weather the wounds bother me to a considerable extent.

At the time I was injured I was earning \$75 per month. I was forced on account of my injuries to lose two weeks' time from work. Dr. J. Edward Hodges, fifth floor, Scanlan Building, Houston, treated me, but I don't know exactly the amount of his bill. When injured I was taken to the Baptist Sanitarium, and the hospital bill was about \$15, but do not remember it exactly. Total damage to my car, \$45. I had on a brand new suit of clothes for which I paid \$35, and the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry shot it practically off of me.

JAMES E. LYON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of January, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Harris, ss:*

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared J. Edward Hodges, M. D., who, being by me duly sworn, on oath, says:

My name is Dr. J. Edward Hodges, and I am a graduate of the medical departments of the University of Texas and the University of Pennsylvania. I have been actively engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery for the past 20 years.

I know Mr. J. E. Lyons, who was wounded by negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry, on the night of August 23, 1917. Mr. Lyons was slightly wounded in the arm, which wound is now entirely healed; also was shot in the hips with rifle bullets and buckshot. The buckshot are still in him, but do not trouble him. It is my opinion that Mr. Lyon's injuries are not permanent and that he is now entirely recovered. My fee was \$75.

J. EDWARD HODGES.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of February, A. D. 1918.

[SEAL.]

P. G. HOUGHINS,

Notary Public in and for Harris County, Tex.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 28, 1925.

HON. DANIEL E. GARRETT,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. GARRETT: In response to your personal request of the 23d instant, for a report upon H. R. 7631, a bill for the relief of Charles T. Clayton and others, the following is submitted:

The records of the War Department show that on the night of August 23, 1917, some 150 or more colored troops, belonging to the Third Battalion of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, stationed at Camp Logan, Tex., joined in a mutiny against their commanding officers, overpowered the guards, broke into supply tents, and procured rifles and ammunition; shortly afterwards they broke out of camp and proceeded toward the city of Houston, murdering 16 persons, including 5 policemen of that city, and seriously wounding 9 or more other persons.

The records of the War Department confirm the identity of the persons stated in H. R. 7631 to have been killed or wounded with that of persons who were killed or wounded by these soldiers on that night.

I may add that 118 of these colored soldiers were identified and tried by general courts-martial which resulted in the execution of 19 of them; 63 were sentenced to life imprisonment, and remainder were sentenced to imprisonment for varying terms of years.

In my letter to the late lamented Congressman Kahn, of December 6, 1921, contained in House Report No. 503, Sixty-seventh Congress, second session, I quoted the following from the Judge Advocate General's review of these cases recommending denial of clemency:

"The occurrences at Houston on the night of August 23, 1917, are without parallel in the history of the Army. Without just provocation these men joined in a mutiny by overriding and subverting all military authority and restraint and entered upon an expedition of disorder, riot, and wholesale murder. They murdered 14 innocent and unoffending persons and seriously wounded 8 others. They instituted a reign of terror in the city of Houston which merits the most severe condemnation and punishment. These men belonged to the military forces of the Government, upon whom the Government in an emergency must rely for the maintenance of order and the enforcement of law. As the result of fair and impartial trials, during which their every legal right was carefully safeguarded, they were convicted of participation in offenses which it was their special duty to prevent. These offenses include two most serious crimes of a civil nature, viz, murder and assault with intent to commit murder; also two of the most serious crimes of which a soldier can be guilty, viz, willful disobedience of lawful orders, and joining in a mutiny."

And I also stated that the views expressed by the Judge Advocate General were approved by my predecessor on August 21, 1921.

In a letter dated August 27, 1919, addressed to the chairman Committee on Claims, United States Senate, relative to a claim of Mary A. Thompson for damages growing out of the riot of negro soldiers at Houston (S. J. Res. 51, 66th Cong., 1st sess.), my predecessor wrote:

"I believe that compensation should be provided by Congress for those innocent persons who suffered as a result of this riot, and it is hoped that your committee will be able to find an early opportunity for the consideration of this matter."

In a subsequent letter dated January 2, 1920, addressed to the chairman Committee on Claims, House of Representatives, relative to a bill for the relief of Charles T. Clayton (H. R. 7674, 66th Cong., 1st sess.), my predecessor concluded by saying:

"I believe that compensation should be provided by Congress for those innocent persons who suffered as a result of action of riotous negro soldiers on August 23, 1917, at Houston, Tex."

It appears that H. R. 7631 passed the House on January 22, 1925, and I am advised that it will shortly come up for consideration in the Senate. It also appears that this bill is merely a consolidation of several separate bills in behalf of the persons named in H. R. 7631, which have heretofore been favorably reported upon by the Committee on Claims of the House of Representatives.

The War Department deplors those tragic occurrences at Houston, truly stated by the Judge Advocate General to be without parallel in the history of our Army, and regrets that so many innocent persons should have suffered therefrom. If the Congress, in its discretion, desires to extend relief to those who were injured and to the families of those who were killed, the War Department is not apprised of any facts which would make such relief improper or objectionable.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

